

## IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please substitute the abstract at page 32 to read as follows:

--~~A~~ This invention relates to a vibration wave driving apparatus includes ~~including~~ an electro-mechanical energy conversion element that is sandwiched and fixed between elastic members, in which a flange-shaped elastic member is provided between the electro-mechanical energy conversion element and one of the elastic members. When a driving vibration is applied to the electro-mechanical energy conversion element, bending vibrations are excited in a vibration element ~~excites bending vibrations~~ and those bending vibrations allow out-of-plane bending vibrations to be excited in the flange-shaped elastic member. ~~A~~ Since a rotor is brought into contact with the third elastic member sandwiched between the elastic member and the electro-mechanical energy conversion element. ~~A~~ ~~element, the size of the vibration wave driving apparatus can be reduced. In addition, since~~ a travelling wave produced by the bending vibration of the vibration element and a travelling wave produced by the out-of-plane bending vibration of the third elastic member are generated at the frictional surface of the vibration element, ~~the output of the vibration wave driving apparatus can be improved.~~--